13. A sensor according to claim 7 further comprising thirty two sensing areas, each sensing area coupled to a matrix switch.

14. A medical imaging system, comprising:

a source for transmitting signals towards a patient,

a detector for detecting signals that have been transmitted through the patient;

a movable member on which at least one of said source and said detector are mounted;

a user input device comprising a plurality of sensors coupled to said movable member and responsive to an operator input representative of a desired movement of the equipment; and

a processor coupled to said user input device for determining at least one of a direction and speed in which the operator desires said member to move based on sensor outputs.

15. A system according to claim 14 wherein said sensors comprise at least one of a capacitance sensor, an infrared sensor, and an ultrasonic sensor.

16. A system according to claim 14 wherein said processor determines both a speed and a direction in which the equipment is to be moved.

17. A system according to claim 16 wherein said processor is programmed to generate composite move vector values by vectorially adding said sensor outputs.

18. A system according to claim 14 wherein at least some of said sensors comprise capacitance sensors, each of said capacitance sensors being one of a proximity sensor and a touch based sensor.

19. A system according to claim 15 wherein said source comprises one of an x-ray source, a magnetic resonance source, a positron emission tomography source, and an ultrasound source.

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